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Summary of Departmental Planning Activities

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SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENTAL PLANNING PROCESS

INTRODUCTION

During consideration of the City of Edmonton's new General Municipal Plan in July 1989, City Council recognized that the General Municipal Plan did not include the planning efforts of other civic departments and agencies. While this in no way affects the General Municipal Plan's legitimacy, Council felt that the public would benefit from a companion summary of many of these planning activities so citizens would know where to find additional information.

This summary provides a broad overview and is not all inclusive or comprehensive in the description of the departmental planning activities. The document has separate sections for each department. Each section begins with a description of the Department's mission or major functions. The material that follows the mission statement describes how the various departments plan the service they offer.

CONTEXT

Most civic departments have a strategic or management plan which set the guidelines for the Department's activities and contains its mission statements.

Departments must conform to a capital and operating budget process which defines much of the planning activity. The capital budget process relies on a Capital Priority Plan developed for the Corporation. The Capital Priority Plan sets up criteria to test projects and set priorities for a five year period. The Operating Budget process requires departments to identify levels of service and performance.

In addition, a good deal of municipal funding comes from other levels of government. There are often program and planning requirements dictated by these cost sharing programs.

A combination of a department's internal strategic plan, the municipal budgeting process and external funding control much of the corporate planning process.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department's mission is to:

- help Edmonton residents and community groups meet their social needs. This is done by supporting and providing a coordinated range of quality preventive social services which facilitate and strengthen the connections individuals and families make with each other, their community resources and which effect positive change in the social and physical environment. The Department promotes volunteerism and citizen participation in the planning and delivery of programs.

The department provides funding support to a variety of community social service agencies. The Community and Family Services Advisory Committee, a Council appointed advisory group, makes recommendations for Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Allocations.

DEPARTMENT DELIVERED SERVICES

Children's Services Program

This program helps families (typically working single-parent, low-income and special needs families) who require supplementary child care for a school aged child. Subsidies are available to eligible families who need out-of-school care service. In addition, families may access the range of Department School Service Programs. The Department monitors licensed Out-of-School Care Centres for compliance with City Standards.

Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board

This service includes primarily information and referral following the Provincial Landlord and Tenant Act. Staff also carry on a mediation role between landlords and tenants.

City Social Services Grants

The Department administers a grant program on the City's behalf related to social service agencies.

Charitable Appeals

The Department administers the City's Charitable Appeals Committee Bylaw.

Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities

The Department provides support services to this Council-appointed Committee.

Preventive Programs

The Department delivers seven preventive programs from eight centres located throughout the Community:

Initial Assessment and Referral Program

This is the entry point for citizens contacting their local Community and Family Services Centre. A skilled professional worker helps citizens access needed information and services. Workers make referrals to internal departmental programs here.

Alternative Measures Program

This program provides short-term supervision to first-time young offenders aged 12-17 years, who have committed certain minor offenses. Eligible youths voluntarily agree to participate in a range of community activities to pay for their illegal behavior. The program also provides access to the Department's range of social programs.

Community Social Work Program

This program helps individuals, groups and agencies to take collective action in meeting local and city-wide social needs. Services include liaison with agencies and groups, coordination of social resources, and consultation to volunteer organizations and self-help groups.

Family Aide Program

This program teaches homemaking skills to referred clients to improve household management, budgeting, nutrition, parenting, interpersonal and social skills. Families receive help accessing needed medical, educational, housing and employment resources.

Individual and Family Support Program

Individuals, couples and families receive help with the stresses of everyday modern living.

Services for Seniors

This service provides counselling to seniors and their families and practical home support services for lower income seniors.

Volunteer Program

This program provides opportunities for citizens of Edmonton to become involved in the planning and delivery of social programs. Volunteers increase the range of services made available by the Department.

Social Housing

Community and Family Services manages the City's inventory of land available for social housing development. The Department also negotiates the sale or lease of land to not-for-profit agencies and groups. They also administer the operating and capital budgets and the property management agreements for city-subsidized housing. These agreements cover units developed under the Province's Community Housing Program, managed by the Edmonton Housing Authority. The agreements also cover city-owned seniors housing projects developed under the Province's Senior Citizen Lodge Program, managed by the Greater Edmonton Foundation. The Department plans for and negotiates future social (subsidized) housing in the City.

Social Planning

The Department is involved in policy, program and strategic planning and does social planning and research to identify emerging needs and guide service development.

The Department is also involved in the land use planning functions of the Planning and Development Department, through provision of social impact assessments and through participation in the in-house preparation of area or policy plans and special studies.

EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Goal of the Edmonton Police Service is to:

- maintain peace and good order, protect lives and property, prevent and detect crime and respond to emerging community needs in the City of Edmonton.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION BYLAW 4138

The Police Act requires that Edmonton appoint a Police Commission. The Commission is responsible for the policing and maintenance of law and order in the City of Edmonton and provides general guidelines to the Police Service. Each year the Commission submits a budget for the Edmonton Police Service to City Council. Once Council approves the budget, the Commission supervises the spending of the funds made available to the Police Service.

Edmonton Police Service Strategic Plan

This five year plan sets out the goals and objectives of the Edmonton Police Service. The plan includes a review of socio-economic trends and forecasts to identify and monitor issues that will impact police operations. An internal review of police services analyzes past and future directions, human resources, the role of technology and long-term and short-term strategies.

Community Based Policing

The Edmonton Police Service bases its work on the philosophy of community based policing. Community based policing means working closely with the community, responding to emerging community needs and participating in social development. This philosophy represents a move away from the traditional role of being exclusively agents of law enforcement and punitive action. Built-in evaluations of programs developed under community based policing ensure commitment to successful programs and changes to programs which are not successful.

Innovative Projects

The following describes various approaches employed to meet the needs of neighbourhoods through community based policing:

Neighbourhood Foot Patrols

Founded on the principles of community based policing, the Neighbourhood Foot Patrol Project is community based rather than criminal justice based. Begun in April 1988, peace officers work with the community to focus on solving problems rather than just responding to and reporting upon incidents. Each constable

patrols a small geographic area on foot, using a store front office as a home base. Store front offices are located in the busiest areas of the City. Busy areas have repeated calls for service and produce heavy workloads for police service.

An independent evaluation of the Neighbourhood Foot Patrol Project found that the program is successful in achieving its goals. The program is particularly effective in residential areas.

Satellite Stations

At the Police Service's four Division Stations, citizens may report car accidents, register firearms, retrieve confiscated property and get crime prevention information. To make police service more accessible to the public, a satellite police station opened in the North Town Mall, where high volumes of people gather. If this first satellite station proves successful in improving service delivery, additional stations will open in other high volume areas of the city.

Media Relations Unit

The Media Relations Unit provides the public and Service with accurate and timely information about the Service and its activities.

Crime Prevention Unit

This unit encourages Edmonton residents to participate in community based proactive policing programs. Examples include Neighbourhood Watch and the Block Parent program.

Victim Services Unit

This unit develops and implements programs and procedures that will provide information, help and support to victims of trauma-related occurrences.

Education Unit

Through programs like the School Liaison Program, School Resource Officer Program and Traffic Safety Education Program, the Education Unit develops and provides the public with educational programs. These programs enhance overall safety and reinforce a positive attitude toward the justice system.

Crime Stoppers Unit

This is an information gathering unit that involves the public at large and the media interacting with the Police Service to provide information to the police. The goal is solving crimes.

EDMONTON POWER

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department's mission is to:

- provide safe, reliable, cost effective electric service to enhance the quality of life in our community through excellence in employees and systems.

DEPARTMENT'S MANDATE

Edmonton Power has a mandate to operate a fully integrated utility. It is a utility that takes fuel in some form, converts it to electricity, develops and maintains a distribution system and delivers the electricity to a wide range of clients throughout the City.

The Department undertakes a variety of planning activities to do this effectively.

Long Range Plan

Edmonton Power is part of a province-wide operational grid defined as the Alberta Interconnected System. Associated with this system is a planning function carried out by the Electric Utility Planning Council (EUPC). EUPC's mandate is to plan for the orderly expansion of power facilities. Edmonton Power's Long Range Plan provides an input into the planning function of this Council and therefore incorporated into provincial needs. The plan predicts service demand, technical innovation and changing business environments into the future with a 25 year planning horizon.

The Five Year Plan

The City of Edmonton has a Five Year Capital Priority Plan. To service this requirement, Edmonton Power has a Five Year Plan which predicts facility needs over a five year period. The Long Range Plan provides a basic starting point. Edmonton Power is also a member of the City's Social Economic Forecast Committee. The forecast of this Committee also forms part of the Five Year Plan.

The Five Year Plan provides a mechanism for Edmonton Power to keep pace with development. Edmonton Power comments on all development proposals from Area Structure Plans through servicing agreements. The Five Year Plan provides a mechanism for the budgeting of capital expenditures arising from development proposals received through the circulation process.

General Maintenance

Edmonton Power plans and operates its facilities such that most can be depreciated over a 30 to 35 year period.

EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

PHILOSOPHY AND STRATEGIES

The Edmonton Public Library serves the City through a system of a Main Library, 12 branch libraries and a bookmobile. The Library emphasizes currency of its automation systems and sets up branch libraries as dictated by expected population and access criteria.

Revenue for providing library service comes from the City tax levy, a provincial per capita grant and fines and charges.

Edmonton Public Library Board

The Edmonton Public Library Board, set up under the provincial Libraries Act, is a decision-making authority that governs the Library through policy planning. Through public meetings, the Board involves the public in its deliberations on the relocation or closure of branch libraries.

Provision of Library Services

With permanent locations and bookmobile stops, the Edmonton Public Library offers good library services to the people of the City, no matter where they live. The Library's annual submission to the Capital Priority Plan considers new developments, annexation, shifts in population and shopping patterns which changes demands for library services.

When determining the need and location of new library branches, the Department uses the following criteria:

- Population density
- Future expansion - or contraction - of the population base
- Library facilities already provided
- Potential circulation figures
- Availability of space at a reasonable price
- Mobility of the population, especially access to public transit facilities
- Facilities in the area, such as schools and shopping centres
- Make up of the population: ratio of young and old
- Distance from other service points and current/future transportation patterns

The Department sets up new branch libraries when population reaches between 30,000 and 50,000 and man-made barriers such as freeways reduce access to library services.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department's mission is to:

- provide water supply, sanitary sewage disposal, storm drainage and solid wastes disposal to a customer-specified level of service, and to achieve a high standard of public health and safety with regard to:
 - Environmental acceptance
 - Customer acceptance and satisfaction
 - Cost effectiveness
 - Financial integrity and rates equity
 - Employee health, safety and quality of work life
 - Legislated and industry quality standards
 - Federal and Provincial Legislative Acts and City Bylaws

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Management Plan

The Department determines waste collection requirements as new land is developed. New areas are included in the collection zones to collect waste from each new parcel property. Waste disposal requirements are done on an ad hoc basis to recognize and plan for the waste generated by new developments.

WATER

Water Supply Master Plan

This is a conceptual engineering plan which defines:

- existing water network and deficiencies; and
- proposed water network extensions and schedule; and
- proposed facility sizing for treatment plants, reservoirs and booster stations and transmission mains.

The plan reflects a 20 - 25 year time horizon.

Area Structure Plan

At this planning stage, the developer proposes servicing alternatives, refines network sizing and defines recommended pipe sizes of greater than 300 mm in diameter. Professional engineers prepare a computer analysis during this process.

Neighbourhood Structure Plan

At this planning stage, the developer finalizes the recommended pipe sizes for the complete water network and prepares an engineering report containing the overall plan.

Detailed Engineering Drawings

The pipe sizes developed at the Neighbourhood Structure Plan stage are used to prepare construction drawings and specifications. This must be co-ordinated with other infrastructure needs to insure cost effective installation.

Technical Evaluation Report

At the detailed subdivision plan stage, the developer shows distribution water main sizing, staged development requirements and the cost of construction of the transmission main.

DRAINAGE

Regional Master Plan

The Regional Master Plan includes city-wide storm and sanitary servicing concept plans for upgrading and extension of sewer systems, pumping stations and wastewater treatment facilities. Upgrading work for City construction require one to four years lead time for planned evaluation, scope definition and coordination with other infrastructure work. New system planning requires three to four years planning time to coordinate with other infrastructure work.

Watershed Plan or Preliminary Drainage Plan

The Department prepares specific plans for each major drainage watershed that forms the catchment area of a specific creek/watercourse. These plans determine how to manage storm drainage. The plans include detailed servicing alternative evaluation using conceptual servicing schemes proposed in the Drainage Master Plan.

Area Structure Plan

Overall storm and sanitary servicing schemes are designed for an ASP area. The plan identifies locations, sizes and land needs of stormwater management facilities. Refined servicing schemes meet land use area population needs as outlined in the ASP. Preliminary staging plans are set out, as well as preliminary hydrogeological and environmental impact assessments and remedial measures. A two year time frame is needed for proper coordination with all other infrastructure needs.

Neighbourhood Structure Plan

This report includes detailed layouts and designs of stormwater and sanitary sewer servicing schemes. They include firm sizing design and operational aspects of stormwater lakes to service the proposed developments. The plan sets out hydrogeological and environmental impact assessment and defines remedial measures.

Detailed Engineering Drawings

The servicing plans developed and designed at the Neighbourhood Designs Report stage are used to prepare construction drawings, tender documents, etc.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department's mission is to:

- protect the lives and property of the citizens of Edmonton from loss due to fire or other emergencies.

Industry Standards

Elements of these standards include the placing of fire stations in locations to maintain an approximate response time of three minutes.

Within existing portions of the city, maintaining this response time requires a continual monitoring of results and the timely replacement of devaluated equipment and stations.

In developing areas of the city, the Department relies on forecasting information from the Planning and Development Department to predict threshold levels of population that are beyond the three minute response time limits. This forecast justifies inclusion of items or stations within the Capital Priority Plan four to five years in advance of the forecasted development.

Other Activities

The Department maintains a building inspection program to meet superior government legislation. This legislation requires the periodic inspection of certain classes of buildings. If manpower and budgets permit, the Department inspects other classes of buildings as well.

The Department also operates several fire prevention and public relations programs and maintains detailed fire statistics.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department's mission is to:

- enhance the quality of life of Edmontonians by ensuring opportunities for enjoyment of recreation, culture and the natural environment;
- meet our customers' needs and achieve high levels of customer satisfaction, year after year.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK BYLAW 2202

This bylaw provides the municipal mandate for a Parks and Recreation Department following Provincial legislation.

Strategic Plans

Parks and Recreation Management Plan

The Management Plan is a strategic plan that: specifies the Department's principle purpose, goals, and general philosophy; identifies parks recreation and cultural issues of importance to residents of Edmonton; and specifies strategies that will be employed to resolve those issues. The Department revises the Management Plan every three years.

Of specific note, the document includes a graphic showing major base-level services available through parks and recreation and a chart showing the criteria for establishing priorities for capital budget requests.

Edmonton Parks and Recreation Department Strategies 1988

This annual document remains true to the overall Department Management Plan but emphasizes the particular strategies dealt with in that particular year and adds any new issues that have arisen since the development of the Management Plan.

Operational Plans

Department Wide Plans

These plans translate the broad direction of the Management Plan into specific actions by the Department. Examples include Current and Capital Budgets and the Department's Marketing Plan.

Branch or Service Delivery Area Plans

These plans take direction from both the strategic plans and the department wide operational plans. Examples of these include the Marketing Plan of the Marketing and Major Facilities Branch and the Community Leisure Services Branch 1990 Strategic Plan.

Park, Facility or Programme Specific Plans

Examples include Park and Facility Master Plans and Marketing Plans.

Maintenance Activities

The Department sets standards for all maintenance tasks through the Task Performance and Maintenance Standards Manual and the Service Level Analysis provided in each years operating budget. For example, this process sets up a schedule for maintaining parkland (fields marked, grass cut, etc.).

Facility Management and Development

Fees and Charges Policy

City Council annually reviews the fees and charges in affect at public facilities and sets rates designed to return a percentage of operating costs.

Facility Development

The City uses several policy provisions to enter a partnership with other organizations to develop and/or operate facilities (for example, the Kinsmen Field House).

Environment

Through a variety of special mandates and maintenance activities, various aspects of the natural environment as it applies to public land are studied, modified and maintained.

Leisure Services

The Department will prepare Service Plans for each of the nine community leisure service units in 1991.

Parks Development

Land for new parks in suburban areas comes to the City by way of land dedication from the subdivision process. Under the Provincial Planning Act, 10% of newly subdivided land is dedicated to the City for school and park purposes.

The City and the two school boards have a Joint Use Agreement which provides for the sharing of this land.

The Parks and Recreation Department has general standards for the location and design of its share of dedicated land. The Department develops the park site as monies are available through the budget process. Communities may wish to see park improvements sooner than the budget process allows. In this case, the Department has developed a process where either the developer or community residents can contribute to the cost of development. The process and park design guidelines for this approach are set out in a departmental document entitled, "Neighbourhood Park Development Program."

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department's mission is to:

- continue in a leadership and coordinating role, through effective planning and development control, in fostering and maintaining a safe, healthy, functional, attractive and cost effective physical environment for present and future residents of the City of Edmonton.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK PLANNING ACT

Land use planning in Alberta takes place within the framework of the Planning Act. The Planning Act describes the types of plans and measures used to control land use, and sets down the powers, decision-making authority, and responsibilities of a planning organization.

General Municipal Plan (GMP)

The purpose of the GMP is to provide civic policies for strategic, city-wide land use planning issues. Required by the Planning Act, the GMP must describe the manner of future development and any areas suitable for an area structure plan or area redevelopment plan. Council approves the GMP by bylaw.

Area Structure Plan (ASP)

The purpose of an ASP is to provide a framework for the future land use development of several neighbourhoods and to identify essential servicing and transportation facilities. The plans describe the expected future population and the staging of new development. Adopted by bylaw, an ASP must conform to any existing GMP.

Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP)

An ARP sets out effective planning and redevelopment for sub-areas of the City. A redevelopment area may be any size, although most ARPs cover older, inner city areas. An ARP identifies problems and opportunities for growth and development. ASPs place greater emphasis on infill redevelopment, upgrading of services and facilities and renovation. Council adopts ARPs by bylaw.

Neighbourhood Structure Plan (NSP)

The purpose of an NSP is to design the detailed land use pattern and servicing requirements for a sub-unit of the Area Structure Plan. The documents provide detailed land use and servicing requirements for a neighbourhood and carry out the development concept of an ASP. Although not required by the Planning Act, the City uses NSPs to provide detailed land use and servicing information. The

NSP functions as a bridge between the ASP and a plan of subdivision. Council adopts NSPs by bylaw.

Districting - The Land Use Bylaw

The Land Use Bylaw implements the City's land use policies as expressed through the GMP and area plans. Land owners redistrict undeveloped lands to apply the various districts for new neighbourhoods. A parcel of land may also be redistricted when the existing district is not appropriate for the development desired on that parcel. The redistricting process requires bylaw approval by City Council.

Plan of Subdivision

Subdivision is the process of creating small legal parcels of land from larger parcels. Subdivisions must conform to approved Area and Neighbourhood Structure Plans. The Municipal Planning Commission, a body of senior administrators chaired by the General Manager of the Planning and Development Department, approves subdivision plans.

Residential Servicing Agreement

Servicing agreements ensure that developers install all required municipal improvements (water and sewer services, roads, power, etc.). The servicing agreement also details what the developer must pay for any services previously installed which benefit his subdivision. Before Council's Executive Committee approves a servicing agreement, the appropriate civic departments approve the engineering drawings for utilities, roads etc.

Development and Building Permits

Under the Land Use Bylaw, anyone wishing to construct or alter a building, or to change the use of an existing property needs a development permit. The City reviews the proposed development to be sure that it meets the regulations of the land use district that governs the site. The Land Use Bylaw regulates use (for example, the form of housing permitted on each street) and development standards such as building height, site coverage and depth of front, back and side yards.

Property owners are responsible for securing a building permit before they begin constructing a building. Building plans must meet the Alberta Building Code and pertinent bylaws. In addition to building permits, permits are required for the installation of signs, plumbing, gas, heating and ventilation.

Topical Programs

Special programs guide the City's physical development and priorities. Following are some examples:

PRIDE Program

The goal of the PProgram to Improve Downtown Edmonton (PRIDE) is to reaffirm downtown as the social, cultural and economic heart of the City. By building

partnerships between public and private sectors, PRIDE aims to increase public and private resources for downtown revitalization. The key action areas identified by PRIDE are: physical improvements to public and private spaces, parking improvements, increased housing, promotions and special events, streamlined civic procedures, increased retail activity, public communications and enhanced social and cultural environments.

Agricultural Land Management Program

This program encourages the continued use of local farmland resources, allows non-agricultural development on agricultural land only if the land is needed to accommodate urban growth, provides an effective operating environment for farming, helps farmers who want to continue farming and limits the City's financial responsibilities in implementing a farmland conservation program.

Policy Guidelines for the Integration of Resource Operations and Urban Development

This report provides guidelines to be applied in reviewing development applications near resource operations. The City's major annexation in 1982 incorporated many oil and gas operations within city boundaries. As the operating life of many of these resource operations is 10 to 20 years, urban uses will begin to encroach on existing resource sites over that timeframe.

Downtown Design Improvement Manual

The purpose of the Downtown Design Improvement Manual is to describe principles of design and the relationship between buildings, streets and people. The manual seeks to achieve excellence in urban design in the construction of public and private developments in the downtown.

Heritage Conservation Program

This program strives to identify and evaluate Edmonton's heritage resources and build community awareness of the value of heritage conservation. An incentives policy to encourage the designation and rehabilitation of municipal historic resources will financially support owners willing to keep historic buildings.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department's mission:

- we are committed to fulfilling customer needs related to transportation within the City of Edmonton.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM BYLAW 6707

This bylaw establishes a transportation system for the City of Edmonton as required by the City Transportation Act. The bylaw includes a map which identifies Edmonton's existing and proposed arterial roadways, collector roadways and Light Rail Transit (LRT). The bylaw also includes written listings of Edmonton's transportation network.

City Council regularly amends Bylaw 6707 to reflect new roads shown in the Area Structure Plan or to show extensions to the LRT system. The bylaw is submitted to the Minister of Transportation and allows the City to share funding with the Province.

Public Meetings

As required/requested, information is presented to affected citizens through public information sessions/public meetings of a formal or informal nature.

Five Year Transportation Program

This program forms the Transportation Department's annual submission to the city-wide Capital Priority Plan (CPP) process. City Council reviews and approves the Five Year Transportation Program annually. It sets out Edmonton's transportation requirements based on current forecasts of population and employment growth and current information on construction costs and funding. Program highlights cover roadways, LRT, transit and services.

As a basis for updating plans and programs, the Transportation Department monitors the performance of the transportation system and the travel behavior patterns of the City's residents. Evaluations of the transportation network considers roadway conditions, noise measurements, pedestrian activity, bus routing, signal timings, accidents and traffic flow. The Department can simulate future traffic conditions using computer models.

The Transportation Department conducts a technical review of all land use and development circulations (Area Structure Plans through to development permits) from the Planning and Development Department. This ensures the protection of the physical, operational and legal integrity of the transportation system.

Facility Plans

Facility plans provide detail on individual transportation projects, outlining general functions and land requirements. Plan diagrams and cross-sections identify roadways, sidewalks, curbs, medians, lighting and landscaping. Supporting technical analysis is carried out during the preparation of a facility plan.

Transit's Operation Procedure Manual

Edmonton Transit designs bus routing when preparing Area Structure Plans. Bus service begins when roads are built and population levels warrant it.

Maintenance Plans

This design or repair stage details construction methods and materials.

EDMONTON TRANSIT

Transit Service Planning and Implementation Process

Edmonton Transit reviews land use and development proposals at all stages of the planning process. This review involves the determination of future bus routings to ensure efficient service while meeting service guidelines and all infrastructure required for transit.

Edmonton Transit implements service when an area develops to a level where transit ridership generates enough revenue to recover a certain percentage of the cost to operate the route. The Department provides additional service as demand warrants, while respecting established operating guidelines.

Edmonton Transit initiates public meetings in various areas of the City to obtain comments and concerns from citizens of Edmonton on the performance of the transit system and services that they would like to see provided. This input provides important information for making future route changes.

Special Events Planning/Park N'Ride Plans

Edmonton Transit plans and provides transit service to major recreational and cultural events in the city. Park N' Ride services provide transportation to all Edmonton Eskimo home games, the Heritage Festival, Harvest Festival and other events held in the City.

The Department reviews Park N' Ride requests individually, sets service levels and arranges Park N' Ride collection points. The previous year's service is reviewed each spring for revisions if necessary. Parks and Recreation, the Eskimos Football Club and the Heritage Festival Organizing Committee are all involved in the service plan review with Edmonton Transit. The cost recovery goal for the City to operate bus service for a special event is always 100%, unless directed otherwise by City Council.

Yellow Bus Plans

By contractual agreement mutually arrived at, Edmonton Transit provides an administrative service to review, prepare, update and monitor most yellow school bus routes operated by the Public and Catholic School Boards in Edmonton. Both School Boards collect and assemble the necessary student data and supply this information, plus the route preparation criteria, to Edmonton Transit. Edmonton Transit then prepares the routes and supplies this information to the School Boards for approval. Edmonton Transit then monitors this service and provides information on it to both School Boards.

TOPICAL PROGRAMS

Truck Route and Dangerous Goods Route Bylaw

Bylaw 5590 maps Dangerous Goods and Truck Routes and Regular Truck Routes and roadways which operate as Truck Routes on restricted hours. Bylaw 5590 defines dangerous goods and heavy vehicles and outlines permitted travel. The routes ensure safe truck passage through the City. City Council reviews and amends the bylaw regularly.

Comprehensive Bicycling Plan

The Department is preparing a comprehensive bicycling plan to address all aspects of bicycling as an urban transportation mode. As background to this work, a Bicycle User Survey was conducted in 1989. In 1990, the Department will carry out a survey of all existing designated bicycle routes, and all routes actually used by bicyclists.